

BRAC IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY – October 19, 2010

- **John Carman called the BRAC Implementation Committee to order at 7:30 p.m.**
- **Phil Alpers, the County's BRAC Coordinator, provided the following updates:**
 - **THE BRAC MOBILITY PROJECTS MATRIX is posted on the BRAC web site.** It has been updated through October 15 and reflects the multi-modal approach the County, State and other stakeholders are taking to address the transportation impacts of BRAC in Bethesda – transit improvements, pedestrian and bicycle enhancements, intersection upgrades, transportation demand management, etc.
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/transpo_project_matrix-101510.pdf
 - It was observed that there is no mention on the Matrix of the BIC's role in its development. Phil said he would add such an attribution.
 - **CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING:** Congress approved a temporary Continuing Resolution (CR) on September 29th to fund all agencies of the federal government through December 3, 2010. The CR was necessary because Congress has not yet passed any of the 12 bills necessary to fund the government for Fiscal Year 2011, which began October 1. Congress will take up the FY2011 appropriations bills when it reconvenes in November. The House version of the FY2011 Defense Appropriations bill currently includes language championed by Representatives Chris Van Hollen and Jim Moran that would help fund BRAC-related transportation projects around the military hospitals in Bethesda and Fort Belvoir, where Walter Reed Army Medical Center will be relocating. The Senate version of the bill doesn't currently include this funding. Neither bill has made it to the full House or Senate, but this action is expected (hopefully) to take place in November or December, and then be resolved in Conference. It should be noted that both the House and Senate bills do include \$20 million in Defense Access Road funding which would go towards the MD 355 Crossing Project in Bethesda.
 - **Background:**
 - 9-28-10 The Hill: Virginia, Maryland lawmakers want stopgap to fund traffic measures:
<http://thehill.com/business-a-lobbying/121443-virginia-maryland-lawmakers-want-stopgap-to-fund-traffic-measures>
 - 10-4-10 The Hill: Defense panels approve \$300M for wounded troops care:

<http://thehill.com/business-a-lobbying/122503-300m-approved-for-wounded-troops>

- Discussion.
 - Great concern was expressed about the lack of clarity about funding, what contingency plans the State and County's have, and when construction will commence to address the impending September 2011 BRAC deadline, when 2,500 additional personnel will be coming to Bethesda, and visits to the Bethesda campus will double from 500,000 to one million per year. John Carman said that the community needs clarity and should know what to expect with BRAC construction, and that SHA and MCDOT should produce a project timeline based on known or requested funding, or at least as it relates to Tier I projects which are funded. State and County transportation officials were not present to comment on this suggestion but Phil said he would look into it. Jeff Miller said he would look into a similar timeline from the Navy. It was also suggested that some currently budgeted funds be shifted from the intersections project to the Metro access project if that could expedite the access project's construction, particularly if the large appropriation doesn't come through.
- **CHEVY CHASE VALLEY ACCESS MITIGATION:** Chevy Chase Valley residents met with State and County transportation planners on October 4 and agreed on a proposed traffic safety mitigation plan relating to the SHA Intersections Improvement project at Connecticut Avenue/Jones Bridge Road. The Planning Board has instructed its staff to work with MCDOT, SHA and the community on this plan because it may involve construction through parkland.
 - MCDOT's 24-page presentation at October 4 community meeting:
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/mcdot-chevychasevalleytrafficaccess-final-presentation-100410.pdf>
 - Ken Strickland noted that there was heated discussion and much angst within his community about the effects of BRAC traffic and SHA projects on his neighborhood, but in the end the neighbors generally agreed that if the proposed Montrose Drive extension to Platt Ridge made the most sense, then it should move forwards even with the taking of some parkland and trees. Consensus at the October 4th meeting:
 - Install a traffic signal on Jones Bridge Road @ Spring Valley Road as soon as possible prior to Sept. 2011;
 - Simultaneously, install temporary physical barriers at the three neighborhood portals at Connecticut Avenue to prohibit southbound right turns into the neighborhood;

- Continue studying the design and construction of extending Montrose Drive through parkland to the signal on Jones Bridge Road at Platt Ridge Drive;
 - After the Spring Valley signal and temporary barriers have been installed, conduct a traffic study to determine their impacts on regional mobility and whether the Montrose Drive extension would be a better overall solution;
 - If deemed necessary, move forward with construction of the Montrose Drive extension, and make permanent the turn barriers on Connecticut Avenue concurrent with whichever of these comes first -- completion of the Montrose Drive extension or completion of the "Tier One project" southbound Connecticut Avenue turn lane onto westbound Jones Bridge Road;
 - On completion of the Montrose Drive extension, remove the signal on Jones Bridge Road at Spring Valley Road; and
 - Study the feasibility and neighborhood desirability of constructing an access driveway for the Chevy Chase Valley homes on Connecticut Avenue that don't have access to the internal neighborhood roads.
- **MDOT CONSOLIDATED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM (CTP):** The Maryland Dept. of Transportation (MDOT) has begun its annual "Road Show" in each Maryland County (and Baltimore City) to discuss the Draft FY2011-2016 Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP). The Montgomery County discussion took place on October 7th in the County Council Hearing Room in Rockville.
- **MDOT's Draft FY2011-2016 CTP:**
<http://www.mdot.maryland.gov/Planning/CTP/Index.html>
(NOTE that SHA lists highway projects for Montgomery County but that other State projects in the County such as transit or pedestrian facilities are listed throughout the CTP. NOTE also that State projects are not to be confused with separate Montgomery County projects, such as the County's BRAC Pedestrian Bike paths project currently under way.)
 - Statewide BRAC projects in the Draft CTP (Bethesda projects are on Page 11 of 12):
http://www.mdot.maryland.gov/Planning/CTP/Documents/I0_BRAC.pdf
 - State Highway Administration (SHA) Projects in Montgomery County:
<http://www.mdot.maryland.gov/Planning/CTP/SHA/Montgomery.pdf>
 - A little background, courtesy of the Washington Post:
http://voices.washingtonpost.com/dr-gridlock/2010/10/transportation_plan_to_be_disc.html

- **ROCKVILLE PIKE/MD 355 CROSSING STUDY:** The Montgomery County Planning Board will conduct a Roundtable discussion on MCDOT's Rockville Pike/MD 355 Crossing Study, pertaining to a pedestrian access project between the Bethesda Naval Hospital campus and the Medical Center Metro station. The Roundtable had been scheduled for November 4, but Larry Cole said it is currently scheduled for November 18, and might be postponed to early December.
 - MD 355 Crossing Project:
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brcmpl.asp?url=/content/exec/brac/nepa-pedaccess.asp>
 - Planning Board's BRAC Transportation Projects web site:
<http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/transportation/brac/index.shtml>
 - Planning Board background on MD 355 Crossing Study:
<http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/transportation/brac/brac7.shtml>
- **NIH ON-CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION:** Construction will commence this month on the NIH campus of several projects resulting from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) – the economic stimulus and jobs creation bill. The largest project is construction of Porter North Building #2. These projects won't conflict with BRAC-related road, transit or bike/pedestrian projects, but you will notice more construction traffic at the NIH Commercial Vehicle Inspection station on Rockville Pike.
 - Susan Hinton reported that the employee entrance on Old Georgetown Road at South Drive will be closed during construction, and that two other entrances along OGR -- at Lincoln Street and Center Drive -- would absorb this traffic. Construction traffic will be routed through the Commercial Vehicle Inspection facility on Rockville Pike, but Susan said that the level of such traffic would not be a significant increase over usual NIH construction or commercial traffic. Concern was expressed about increased traffic in the area generated by the construction but particularly by the closure of the South Drive entrance. Susan said the NIH Office of Community Liaison would be the best way for NIH and the community to share information and concerns: <http://ocl.od.nih.gov/Default.asp>
 - There was discussion about safety concerns related to poor lighting along the existing shared use path on Rockville Pike, and about the impact on street parking and pedestrian safety of the proposed path along West Cedar Lane. Both paths involve NIH ROW. Susan said she would look into the lighting issue, and noted that NOH could support removal of on-street parking on either side of West Cedar Lane if a shared use path were

to run on the roadway. Current plans put the path off the road, on the north side of West Cedar Lane.

- There was also discussion of construction of a Stoney Creek Storm Water Management project along Woodmont Avenue on NIH property. This pond will serve the Bethesda Urban District. This project will generate substantial construction traffic. Recently posted sign:
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/nih-stormwatermgmtprojectsign-101910.jpg>
- **SHA INTERSECTIONS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM:** Lacking a resolution of the congressional appropriation, SHA is beginning to plan implementation of Tier I projects for the Intersections Improvement program. Outstanding ROW issues and other technical matters need to be resolved.
 - “Tiers and Phases” as of November 2009:
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/intersection-s-tiersphases-summary-111709.pdf>
 - John Carman asked Larry Cole if SHA had responded to Planning Board comments from the July Mandatory Referral hearings. Larry said that SHA comments have not been received but were expected soon. He noted that the Planning Board had expressed serious concerns over ADA accessibility issues relating to the intersections project, but he believes SHA intends to respond favorably to those concerns.
 - Planning Board BRAC site:
<http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/transportation/brac/index.shtml>
 - Larry said the Mandatory Referral is “on hold” for the final phase of the project at Jones Bridge Road and Connecticut Avenue. Avice Meehan reported that Howard Hughes Medical Institute is still working on ROW matters relating to its Forest Conservation Easement at that intersection.
- **OTHER MATTERS:**
 - Ken Hartman noted that a proposed on-road bike path on Battery Lane could affect on-street parking.
 - Ilaya Hopkins suggested that the Committee consider developing a list of proposed “deliverables.” John Carman directed BIC members to send their ideas to Phil.
 - John asked Phil to add a “How to Use This Site” explanation on the Home Page.

- Patrick O'Neill noted that there will be decisions in the near future about funding to implement the White Flint Sector Plan. The BIC should follow this matter closely as what happens at White Flint will impact Bethesda neighborhoods.

◦ **NEWS ITEMS OF INTEREST:**

- 10-6-10 WBAL TV: State Launches BRAC Internship Website -- Website Showcases Hundreds Of Available Internships:
<http://www.wbalv.com/education/25309383/detail.html>
 - Maryland BRAC Internship Information Center:
<http://www.internshipcenter.mhec.maryland.gov/>
- 9-30-10 Baltimore Business Journal: Report: Military pumps \$36B into Maryland:
http://www.bizjournals.com/baltimore/stories/2010/09/27/daily51.html?an=edu_pub
- 9-30-10 Governor Martin O'Malley News Release: Governor O'Malley Announces Economic Impact of Maryland's Military Installations -- Mission Maryland report cites \$36 billion impact on state's economy:
<http://www.governor.maryland.gov/pressreleases/100930b.asp>
 - Jacob France Institute of the Merrick School of Business at the University of Baltimore: Mission Maryland -- Measuring Economic Impact of Maryland's Military Installations (56 pp):
<http://www.choosemaryland.org/aboutdbed/Documents/ProgramReports/2010/missionMd.pdf>
 - Executive Summary (9 pp):
<http://www.choosemaryland.org/aboutdbed/Documents/ProgramReports/2010/missionMdEs.pdf>
- 10-7-10 Washington City Paper: Charter Schools, Homeless Providers Named in Walter Reed Draft Plan:
<http://www.washingtoncitypaper.com/blogs/housingcomplex/2010/10/07/charter-schools-homeless-providers-named-in-walter-reed-draft-plan/>
 - 10-14-10 Washington Post: D.C. to unveil plans for redevelopment of Walter Reed:
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/10/14/AR2010101400416.html?wpisrc=nl_politics
 - 10-14-10 Washington Post: Walter Reed redevelopment plan -- D.C. officials have laid out plans to redevelop 62 acres of Walter Reed into a neighborhood of new homes, shopping, green space, homeless facilities and schools:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/graphic/2010/10/13/GR2010101308162.html?sid=ST2010101400419>

- 10-11-10 Washington Post: Prince George's not likely to see BRAC boon at Andrews -- County fears workers will commute from elsewhere -- impact of 3,000 new jobs on local economy is 'questionable,' BRAC liaison says:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/10/10/AR2010101003988.html>

- 10-11-10 Washington Post: (GRAPHIC) New jobs at Andrews -- *Realignment will bring 3,000 jobs to Andrews AFB, but questions remain about the economic impact on Prince George's County:*
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/graphic/2010/10/11/GR2010101100096.html?sid=ST2010101100101>

○ **UPCOMNG EVENTS:**

- 10-20-10: The U.S. Small Business Administration presents "Beyond Contracting: Innovative Ways for Tech Firms to Do Business with the Federal Government." 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon at the Germantown Innovation Center, 20271 Goldenrod Lane, Germantown MD. Learn how your firm can become part of the U.S. Government's R&D programs through: SBIR (Small Business Innovation Research) awards; STTR (Small business Technology Transfer Research) awards; Prizes, Challenges and other innovation incentives; and OTAs (Other Transactional Authorities). This event is free of charge! Register online at <http://events.sba.gov/eventmanagement/eventlisting.aspx?do=Washingto n%20District%20Office>.
- 11-4-10 (Rescheduled from October 14): Montgomery County's Planning Board will conduct a "Roundtable" discussion about the Rockville Pike/MD 355 Crossing Study on Thursday, November 4. This project being studied by the County's Dept. of Transportation (MCDOT) would provide safe and efficient pedestrian access and help alleviate gridlock between Bethesda Naval Hospital and the Medical Center Metro station. *NOTE: Time TBA, probably late in the afternoon; contact Arnita Jackson at 301-495-4601 or arnita.jackson@mncppc-mc.org to confirm the time and date of this event.*
 - MD 355 Crossing Project:
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brcmpl.asp?url=/content/exec/brac/nepa-pedaccess.asp>

- Planning Board's BRAC Transportation Projects web site:
<http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/transportation/brac/index.shtml>
- Planning Board background on MD 355 Crossing Study:
<http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/transportation/brac/brac7.shtml>
- The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 16, 2010, 7:30 p.m., at the BCC Regional Services Center.

Committee members in attendance, October 19, 2010:

Phil Alperson, County BRAC Coordinator
 John Carman, BRAC Implementation Committee Chairman
 Larry Cole, Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission
 Leslie Weber for Brian Gagnolati, Suburban Hospital
 Ken Hartman, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center
 Ilaya Hopkins, East Bethesda Citizens Association
 Ed Krauze, Bethesda-Parkview Citizens Association
 Janet Maalouf, Maplewood Citizens Association
 Debbie Michaels, Glenbrook Village Home Owners Association
 George Milne, Stone Ridge School
 Patrick O'Neill, Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce
 Sara Morningstar for Melanie Wenger, Montgomery County Office of Intergovt. Relations
 Susan Hinton for Dan Wheeland, NIH

Ex-officio:

Joan Kleinman (Rep. Chris Van Hollen)
 Jeff Miller, Naval Support Activity-Bethesda
 Ken Reichard (Senator Ben Cardin)

Other Attendees

Erin Donaghue, Patch.com
 Sarah Gantz, Gazette Newspapers
 Harry Holt, BITHGROUP Technologies
 Richard Hoyer, Action Committee for Transit
 Greg Humes, Chevy Chase Valley Citizens Association
 Howard Kaplan, North Chevy Chase
 Karen Kuker-Kihl, The Promenade Apartments
 Marilyn Mazuzan, Town of Oakmont
 Burt Murray, Rock Creek Knights of Columbus
 Jeanette Musil, DOD Office of Economic Adjustment
 Avice Meehan, Howard Hughes Medical Institute
 Debbie Spielberg, Council Member Marc Elrich
 Ken Strickland, Chevy Chase Valley Citizens Association